

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 11, 13-21, 23, and 24 have been canceled without prejudice to the applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application. Claims 4, 12, and 22 have been amended as indicated hereinabove. Claims 4-10, 12, 22, and 25-28 remain pending in this application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of these claims and indication of the allowance thereof at an early date in view of the foregoing amendments are respectfully solicited.

A Replacement Specification is included in this amendment to show the paragraph numbering in place of the line numbering. Reconsideration of the specification as amended is respectfully solicited. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 11, 13-21 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,496,511. The applicant respectfully submits that this ground of rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-10, 12, and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration of these claims. The applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion, and amended claims 4, 12, and 22 to independent form (claims 5-10 being dependent upon claim 4). Reconsideration of this ground of objection and indication of the allowability of claims 4-10, 12, and 22 in view of the foregoing amendments are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 25-28 are allowed. The applicant again wishes to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration of these claims.

The applicant traverses the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance to the extent it differs from a mere restatement of the claim language. Applicant further traverses the Examiner's statement and reasoning insofar as they would lead to or suggest, if at all, an interpretation of the

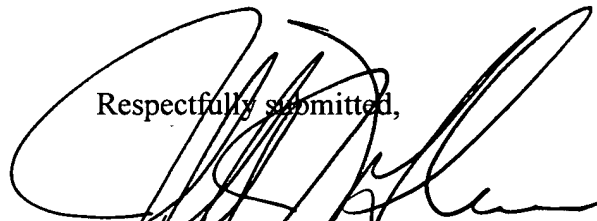
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claimed invention different from the full extent of claim scope afforded thereto by the established law in the absence of the statement of the reasons for allowance.

In view of the above the applicant respectfully submits that this application stands in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and indication of the allowability of claims 4-10, 12, 22, and 25-28 at an early date are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation would aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Makeever, Reg. No. 37390
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
6815 Weaver Road, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61114-8018
(815) 963-7661 (telephone)
(815) 963-7664 (facsimile)

Date: June 25, 2004